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Senate

(Legislative day of Friday, December 29, 1995)

The Senate met at 10 a.m., on the expiration of the recess, and was called to order by the Honorable CRAIG THOMAS, a Senator from the State of Wyoming.

PRAYER

The guest Chaplain, Father Paul Lavin, pastor of St. Joseph's on Capitol Hill, Washington, DC, offered the following prayer:

Let us listen to the words of the prophet Isaiah.

Cry out full-throated and unsparingly, lift up your voice like a trumpet blast; Is this the manner of fasting I wish, of keeping a day of penance: That a man bow his head like a reed, and lie in sackcloth and ashes?

Do you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the Lord?

This, rather is the fasting I wish, releasing those bound unjustly, untying the thongs of the yoke; Setting free the oppressed, breaking every yoke; Sharing your bread with the hungry, sheltering the oppressed and the homeless; Clothing the naked when you see them, and not turning your back on your own.—Isaiah 58:5-8.

Let us pray:

Blessed are You, Lord God of mercy, You have given us the law, the prophets, the wisdom of scripture, the commandment of love for one another. Send down Your blessings on the men and women of the Senate and on their staffs who have sought and accepted these offices of service. When they are called on in times of need, let them be faithful to You, and to their neighbor. We give glory and praise to You for ever and ever.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, December 30, 1995.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, section 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable CRAIG THOMAS, a Senator from the State of Wyoming, to perform the duties of the Chair.

STROM THURMOND,
President pro tempore.

Mr. THOMAS thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the time for the two leaders has been reserved.

SCHEDULE

Mr. DOLE. There will be a period for morning business until 10:30 a.m. with Senators permitted to speak for up to 5 minutes each. We are continuing budget negotiations today. As I said yesterday, I think we have made some progress, and we will continue again, beginning at 11 a.m. There is hope that the Senate can pass legislation today that would deem all Government employees essential, thereby sending everybody back to work. If that legislation can be worked out, it would be the intention of the leadership to pass that bill by unanimous consent.

I am also advised the House may take action on that bill today and send it to the Senate, so that would require us to take some action. In addition to that, they may add to that the Middle East Peace Facilitation Act, plus the expedited procedure would also be in the House bill.

Also today, before we go over until tomorrow, we hope to pass the military COLA increase contained in the DOD authorization bill and vetoed by the President. We may include in that other provisions that need to be attended to in the next few days, so there

will be a further announcement on that. Again, I hope we can do that by unanimous consent. I do not know of any objection to the military COLA increase contained in the DOD authorization bill.

I will not make any unanimous-consent requests at this time, but I will probably later in the day, and I will advise the distinguished Democratic leader, Senator DASCHLE, so there will not be any surprises.

Again, let me indicate I hope we can work out some expedited procedure. If we are going to get an agreement where all the party leaders are involved—Democrats, Republicans, and the President—it seems to me that we ought to be able to agree on some procedure in the Senate so we can pass the 7-year balanced budget once we agree to it. Otherwise, we could be in debate here for weeks and weeks and weeks because of Senate rules. That is all that is holding up all these Federal workers going back to work. We are prepared to pass that bill immediately. Federal employees can go back to work and be guaranteed their pay. To me, that would be a big step in the right direction.

I hope we can resolve this before the day is finished. We will be discussing it, I am certain, with Senator DASCHLE and others throughout the day.

I understand that the Senator from North Dakota, Senator DORGAN, wishes to speak, and following his remarks, unless there are any other requests, I move we stand in recess subject to call of the Chair.

RECESS SUBJECT TO THE CALL OF THE CHAIR

Mr. DOLE. As I understand, Senator DORGAN cannot be on the floor right at this moment, so I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in recess

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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